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In the Claims:

Kindly amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) An apparatus for processing multivariate negotiations, comprising:
  - [--] a network;
  - [--] a multivariate negotiations system including storage space, and negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing [terms] terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user, the multivariate negotiations system being connected to the network;
  - [--] a destination terminal for a first user connected to the network, the destination terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path over the network which flows through the multivariate negotiations system;
  - [--] an initiating terminal for a second user connected to the network, the initiating terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path over the network which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, during iterative processing the automated negotiations engine recognizing the users at the destination terminal and the initiating terminal as negotiators and recognizing one of [them] the users as a deciding entity, such automated negotiations engine further

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recognizing any changes in the terms and storing in the storage space the terms each terminal proposes, and recognizing the terminal to which proposed terms are being sent as the indicated terminal, sending terms to the indicated terminal, [with an indication of] the automated negotiations engine indicating any changes in the terms until a set of terms is acted upon in a final manner by the deciding entity.

Kindly amend Claim 20 as follows:

20. (Twice Amended) A method for processing multivariate negotiations, comprising the steps of:

[- -] establishing communications paths over a network;  
[- -] connecting a multivariate negotiations system including storage space and negotiations software to the network, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing [terms] terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to that purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user;  
[- -] connecting a destination terminal for a first user to the network, the destination terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path over the network which flows through the multivariate negotiations system;  
[- -] connecting an initiating terminal for a second user to the network, the initiating terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path over the network which flows through the multivariate negotiations system,

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during iterative processing the automated negotiations engine recognizing the users at the destination terminal and the initiating terminal as negotiators and recognizing one of [them] the users as a deciding entity, such automated negotiations engine further storing in the storage space the terms each terminal proposes, and recognizing the terminal to which proposed terms are being sent as the indicated terminal, sending terms to the indicated terminal, [with an indication of] the automated negotiations engine indicating any changes in the terms until a set of terms is acted upon in a final manner by the deciding entity.

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Kindly amend Claim 39 as follows:

39. (Once Amended) An apparatus for processing iterative, multivariate bargaining, comprising:

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[- -]a multivariate negotiations system including storage space, and negotiations software such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing [terms] terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user;

[- -] a destination terminal for a first user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the destination terminal including software for sending and

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receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system;

[--] an initiating terminal for a second user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the initiating terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, during iterative processing the automated negotiations engine recognizing the users at the destination terminal and the initiating terminal as negotiators and recognizing one of [them] the users as a deciding entity, such automated negotiations engine further recognizing any changes in the terms and storing in the storage space the terms each terminal proposes, and recognizing the terminal to which proposed terms are being sent as the indicated terminal, and sending terms to the indicated terminal [with an indication of] the automated negotiations engine indicating any changes in the terms until a set of terms is acted upon in a final manner by the deciding entity.

Kindly amend Claim 44 as follows:

44. (Once Amended) The apparatus of Claim 39, wherein [terms which have changed are identified at each iteration.] the automated negotiations engine notifies users of activity by separate, electronic mail that does not contain any confidential information.

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Kindly amend Claim 49 as follows:

49. (Once Amended) A method for processing iterative, multivariate bargaining, comprising the steps of:

[ - - ] operating a multivariate negotiations system including storage space and negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing [terms] the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user;

[ - - ] communicating with the multivariate negotiations system through a destination terminal for a first user, the destination terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations engine system;

- - communicating with the multivariate negotiations system through an initiating terminal for a second user, the initiating terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, during iterative processing the automated negotiations engine recognizing the users at the destination terminal and the initiating terminal as negotiators and designating one of [them] the users as a deciding entity, such automated negotiations engine further storing in the storage space the terms each terminal proposes, and recognizing the terminal to which proposed terms are being sent as the indicated terminal, sending terms to the indicated terminal, [with an indication of] the automated negotiations engine indicating any changes in the terms

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until a set of terms is acted upon in a final manner by the deciding entity.C  
Kindly amend Claim 54 as follows:C  
54. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 49, wherein the step of sending terms with an indication of any changes includes [the step of identifying which terms which have changed at each iteration] the step of the automated negotiations engine notifying users of activity by separate, electronic mail that does not contain any confidential information.C  
Kindly amend Claim 55 as follows:55. (Once Amended) The method of [Claim 1,] Claim 49, wherein the step of sending terms to the indicated terminal includes the step of incorporating terms which have been acted upon in a final manner into a concluding document.C  
Kindly amend Claim 59 as follows:C  
59. (Once Amended) An apparatus for remote authoring of websites used in multivariate negotiations, comprising:

[- -] a network;

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[-] a multivariate negotiations system including storage space, negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing [terms] terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user, remote web authoring software, and sponsored community software, the multivariate negotiations system being connected to the network;

[-] a first storage area in the storage space for storing website templates;

[-] a second storage area in the storage space for storing sponsored community functions;

[-] an authoring terminal connected to the network, the authoring terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path over the network which flows through the multivariate negotiations system; during iterative processing the remote web authoring software enabling the authoring terminal to select a website template from the first storage area, responding to terms sent from the authoring terminal to modify the website template, the remote web authoring software also integrating the modifications made to the website template with sponsored community functions.

Kindly amend Claim 66 as follows:

66. (Once Amended) A ~~method for remote~~ authoring of websites used in multivariate negotiations, comprising the steps of:

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~~[- -]establishing a network;~~

~~[- -]connecting a multivariate negotiations system to the network, the multivariate negotiations system including storage space, negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing [terms] terms, the analysis for terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user, remote web authoring software, and sponsored community software;~~

~~[- -] storing website templates in a first storage area in the storage space;~~

~~[- -] storing sponsored community functions in a second storage area in the storage space;~~

~~[- -]connecting an authoring terminal, the authoring terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path over the network which flows through the multivariate negotiations system; during iterative processing the remote web authoring software enabling the authoring terminal to select a website template from the first storage area, responding to terms sent from the authoring terminal to modify the website template, the remote web authoring software also integrating the modifications made to the website template with sponsored community functions.~~

Kindly amend first Claim 69 as follows:

~~69. (Once Amended) The method of [Claim 69,] Claim 68, wherein the step of connecting an authoring terminal further comprises the step of enabling the authoring~~

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~~terminal to preview the customized website.~~

*Refile 1/26*  
Kindly amend second Claim 69 as follows:

*70*  
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~~69. (second) (Once Amended) 102. The method of Claim 68, wherein the step of customizing the website further comprises the step of enabling the authoring terminal to integrate existing electronic versions of relevant data into the customized website using applications programming interfaces.~~

Kindly amend Claim 72 as follows:

*73*  
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~~72. (Once Amended) An apparatus for creating and managing a sponsored community of members desiring to participate in multivariate negotiations, comprising:  
[-] a computer having a storage space, negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing [terms] terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user, and sponsored community software;  
[-] a first storage area in the storage space for storing participation rules for the community;~~

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[-] a second storage area in the storage space for storing community function software;  
[-] a terminal communicating with the computer, the terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the sponsored community software, during processing by the automated negotiations engine the community function software confirming compliance with community participation rules, and performing community functions for the terminal.

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Kindly amend Claim 80 as follows:

*80* (Once Amended) The apparatus of Claim 79, wherein automatically promoting the visibility of the new member further comprises:

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[-] means for formatting sponsored community names, member names, and uniform resource locators into appropriate formats;  
[-] means for selecting search engines;  
[-] means for selecting submission schedules more likely to speed up registration with the selected search engines; and  
[-] means for aggregating submissions of sponsored community names, member names, and uniform resource locators to optimize registration and visibility and automatically submitting the aggregated submissions to the selected search engines on the selected schedules.

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Kindly amend Claim 81 as follows:

81. (Once Amended) A method for creating and managing a sponsored community of members desiring to participate in multivariate negotiations, comprising the steps of:  
[-] including in a computer having a storage space, negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing [terms] terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user, and sponsored community software;  
[-] storing in a first storage area in the storage space participation rules for the community;  
[-] storing in a second storage area in the storage space community function software;  
[-] communicating with the computer by a terminal, the terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the sponsored community software, during processing by the automated negotiations engine the community function software confirming compliance with community participation rules, and performing community functions for the terminal.

Kindly amend Claim 89 as follows:

89. (Once Amended) ~~The method of Claim 88, wherein the step of automatically promoting the visibility of the new member further comprises the steps of:~~

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[- -] formatting sponsored community names, member names, and uniform resource locators into appropriate formats;

[- -] selecting search engines;

[- -] selecting submission schedules more likely to speed up registration with the selected search engines; and

[- -] aggregating submissions of sponsored community names, member names, and uniform resource locators to optimize registration and visibility and automatically submitting the aggregated submissions to the selected search engines on the selected schedules.

Kindly amend Claim 90 as follows:

90. (Once Amended) An apparatus for integrating a database into a multivariate negotiations system, comprising:

[- -] a multivariate negotiations system including storage space, negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing [terms] terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user, and database software and database entries made by the database software during the operation of the automated negotiations engine;

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~~[- -] a terminal connected to the multivariate negotiations system, the terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, during iterative negotiations processing the database software communicating directly and automatically with the automated negotiations engine to store and retrieve entries in the database.~~

Kindly amend Claim 96 as follows:

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96. (Once Amended) A method for integrating a database into a multivariate negotiations system, comprising the steps of:

~~[- -] including in a multivariate negotiations system storage space, negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing [terms] terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user, and database software and database entries made by the database software during the operation of the automated negotiations engine;~~  
~~- connecting a terminal to the multivariate negotiations system, the terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, during iterative negotiations processing the database software communicating directly and automatically with the~~

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*C/14* automated negotiations engine to store and retrieve entries in the database.

Kindly amend Claim 101 as follows:

*C/17* <sup>102</sup> 101. (Once Amended) The method of [Claim 90,] Claim 96, wherein the step of storing entries in the database further comprises the step [of] of storing data in a plurality of multimedia formats.